

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

August 20, 2013

Los Angeles County is a member of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). The primary purpose of CSAC is to represent county government before the California Legislature, administrative agencies and the federal government. CSAC, on behalf of its member counties, places a strong emphasis on educating the State Legislature and the public about the value and need for county programs and services.

While California's 58 counties - ranging from Alpine with a little more than 1,200 people, to our own County of Los Angeles, with more than 10 million - are diverse, many common issues exist. CSAC's long-term objective is to significantly improve the fiscal health of all California counties so they can adequately meet the demand for vital public programs and services.

As the need arises, CSAC proactively engages in the elective process on policy and fiscal issues of significant importance on behalf of California's counties. In recent years, CSAC has advocated for ballot initiatives to provide and protect funding for critical County services. These advocacy activities are controlled and regulated under the California Political Reform Act and reported as required to the Fair Political Practices Commission. CSAC is always in compliance with these requirements pursuant to existing law, including never using any public funding or county membership dues paid to CSAC for campaign activities.

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ANTONOVICH _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

SB 594 (Hill), which was gutted and amended on August 7, 2013, would place unnecessary and significant new restrictions on nonprofit organizations that both receive public funding and participate in campaign activities, such as CSAC and the California League of Cities. Under the bill, CSAC, who only utilizes segregated, non-public funding for the limited campaign activity it participates in, would be stripped of any ability to participate in future ballot measure campaigns, as well as other advocacy activities associated with ballot measures.

In addition, this measure specifically singles out local agencies such as counties and cities while excluding school entities including county superintendents of schools, school districts, and community colleges, apparently because these entities are covered under existing Education Code. However, the provisions of the Education Code are similar to those applicable to the local government agencies targeted by SB 594 are subject to under current law.

The Board of Supervisors are have been duly elected and empowered by the citizens of Los Angeles County to make important decisions regarding critical issues to our residents. Like CSAC, this Board is strongly opposed to any effort to eliminate the voice of counties on matters of statewide importance impacting local government, particularly those proposed in the final days of the legislative session.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer and the Sacramento Advocates to oppose SB 594.

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